

XO *Amended* 49. (Amended) The apparatus in claim 43, wherein the first node is an initial RAN node that controls the connection from the perspective of the core network and the second node is another RAN node that currently serves the mobile terminal.

REMARKS

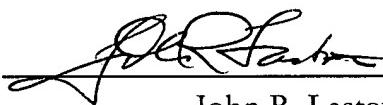
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**" By the foregoing amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 42-49.

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. *(Amended)* In a radio communications system including a core network coupled to a radio access network (RAN) and a plurality of mobile terminals, a method comprising:

establishing a connection between the core network and one of a plurality of mobile terminals through the radio access network;

a RAN node associating a temporary RAN identifier with the mobile terminal for the connection; and

using the temporary RAN identifier in the RAN to assist in the transfer of information through the radio access network relating to the connection.

42. *(Amended)* The apparatus [method] in claim 40, wherein connection is a packet-based connection and the temporary RAN identifier is included in each connection packet, the apparatus [method] further comprising:

means for routing connection packets through the RAN using the temporary RAN identifier incorporated in each connection packet.

43. *(Amended)* The apparatus [method] in claim 40, wherein the radio access network includes a first node associated with a first geographical coverage area and a second node associated with a second geographical coverage area, the apparatus [method] further comprising:

means for using the temporary identifier in packets corresponding to the established connection to direct those packets to the first node.

44. *(Amended)* The apparatus [method] in claim 43, wherein the mobile terminal moving from the first coverage area to the second coverage area re-establishes the connection using the temporary RAN identifier.

45. *(Amended)* The apparatus [method] in claim 44, wherein the temporary RAN identifier includes a node identifier corresponding to the node through which the connection was initially established and a mobile terminal identifier.

46. (*Amended*) The apparatus [method] in claim 45, wherein the mobile terminal may employ [employs] the node identifier corresponding to the node through which the connection was initially established and the mobile terminal identifier when making initial contact in a new geographical coverage area.

47. (*Amended*) The apparatus [method] in claim 46, wherein the mobile terminal may employ [employs] only the mobile terminal identifier after making initial contact in the new geographical coverage area.

48. (*Amended*) The apparatus [method] in claim 42, wherein the temporary RAN identifier includes a node identifier corresponding to the node through which the connection was initially established [and a mobile terminal identifier], the apparatus [method] further comprising:

means for routing packets associated with the connection between the first and second nodes using a shortened temporary RAN identifier that lacks the node identifier.

49. (*Amended*) The apparatus [method] in claim 43, wherein the first node is an initial RAN node that controls the connection from the perspective of the core network and the second node is another RAN node that currently serves the mobile terminal.